

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 January 2005 (13.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/003046 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C03B 37/012

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2003/007157

(22) International Filing Date: 30 June 2003 (30.06.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

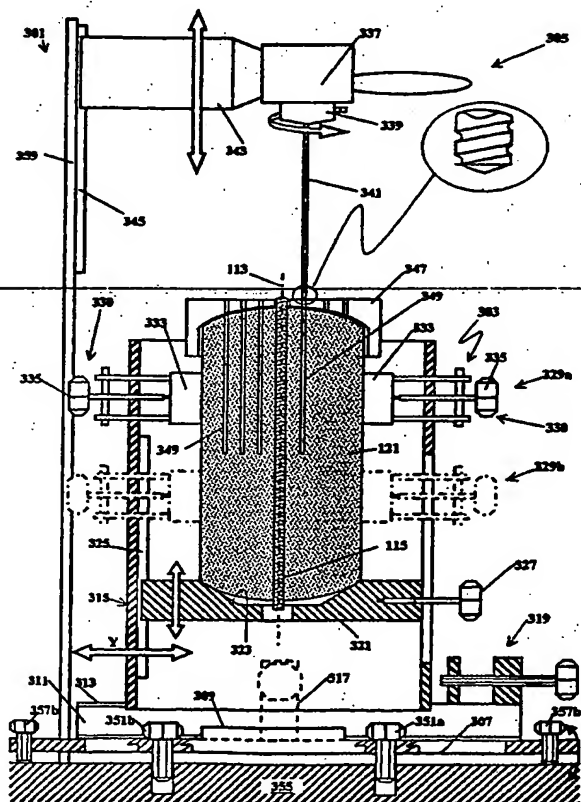
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DRILLING PREFORMS FOR HOLEY OPTICAL FIBERS



(57) Abstract: A method of producing a preform for a holey optical fiber having at least one hole longitudinally extending therethrough, comprises forming a porous preform (121), such as a glass soot preform formed by means of flame hydrolysis, or a gel preform; at least one hole is then formed by drilling (305) the porous preform, the hole extending through the porous preform along the longitudinal direction thereof. A holey fiber can be produced by drawing the holey porous preform, after having submitted it to a consolidation process. A device for drilling the porous preform comprising means for supporting, holding, positioning and drilling the porous preform is also claimed.

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Published:

— with international search report

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